

MR. INOUE: So, my name is David Inouye. I'm a scientist. I'm an ecologist and conservation biologist, past President of the Ecological Society of America, and an alternate member of Secretary Jewell's Advisory Committee on Climate Change and Natural Resource Science. I'm now a Delta County resident. I live close enough to hear and see the coal trains going down the Valley. I've also worked since 1971 in Gunnison County at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory, which is a high-altitude research station outside Crested Butte, Colorado. When I'm at the Rocky Mountain Biological Lab, I can look out my window and see an antique wooden water tank from the steam trains that carried coal from Crested Butte. And that's provided some context [indiscernible] thoughts from me I have to share today. One is that the economics of energy extraction changed dramatically, as we can see by this example of steam trains that used to carry coal from Crested Butte. And I looked at the current regulations that need to be updated in order to be more in tune with the current economic and environmental issues. Second, the science of energy generation is changing rapidly. I think we've reached a tipping point in terms of the balance between renewable energy and fossil fuels. And that needs to be taken into account in your deliberations. Third is job market changes. Now, if you think about Crested Butte, it was coal mining town. And when I first went there in 1971, it was a pretty shaky economy. The streets weren't paved. Now, probably a few people in this room could afford to live there. It was a booming economy, depended on tourism, recreation, on wildlife, on wildflowers, on view sheds. And I think that's an example of how there can be a successful transition from an economy town that's based primarily on coal to one that's now based on other factors. Now, in Delta County, I think is a good example of how Federal programs could help support alternative careers. For instance, the Delta/Montrose Electric Association is starting this month to put gigabyte internet broadband service into the County. And that's going to open up a number of opportunities for additional jobs in that county. I'd also like to address some of the ecological impacts of coal mining. For instance, the fact that we now have foxes and moose overwintering at 9,500 feet. Bumble bees that I work with have moved up in altitude. The timing of hibernation and migration are changing. All these ecological changes have been going on in my lifetime.

Habitat fragmentation affects wildlife. And anybody who's a, a big game hunter -- I know there are a number in this room. Wildlife watchers should be concerned about that. Habitat loss is a problem. It's the primary cause of decline of many species of concern. It's also the root of wildlife [indiscernible] conflicts in Delta County and in Gunnison County. You also need to make sure that restoration will occur. It can be successful. But, how will bankrupt companies follow through with that restoration? So, these ecological impacts can be minimized if we minimize future Federal coal resources. So, the need to be done with great care and great thought. Thank you.